

Parkinson disease incidence lower in hep C patients who receive antivirals

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(HealthDay)—The incidence of Parkinson disease (PD) is lower for patients with chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection who receive interferon-based antiviral therapy, according to a study published online June 5 in *JAMA Neurology*.

Wey-Yil Lin, M.D., from Landseed International Hospital in Taoyuan, Taiwan, and colleagues examined the risk for PD development in patients with HCV infection receiving [antiviral treatment](#) and those not receiving treatment using claims data obtained from the Taiwan National Health Insurance Research Database. A total of 188,152 patients were categorized into treated and untreated groups. For comparison of main outcomes, propensity score matching was performed to balance the covariates across groups; 39,936 patients were retained in the treated and untreated groups.

The researchers found that the incidence density of PD was 1.00 and 1.39 per 1,000 person-years in the treated and untreated groups, respectively. At five-year follow-up, the advantage of [antiviral therapy](#) reached [statistical significance](#) (hazard ratio, 0.75); this advantage continued to increase until the end of follow-up (hazard ratio, 0.71).

"The results seem to support the theory that HCV infection is a risk factor for developing PD. Antiviral therapy has shown potential in lowering this risk," the authors write.

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